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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gul to US: We'll end cooperation if Tal Afar attacks continue - Milliyet

Ankara warns of ending cooperation with US- Aksam

US troops in Tal Afar - Hurriyet

Powell: We've miscalculated the problems in Iraq - Aksam

Al-Qaeda kills another Turk - Milliyet

Iraq a new 'Jihad' zone for Turkish fundamentalists - Sabah

Al-Qaeda Turks claim responsibility for Istanbul bombings -

Aksam

Powell: Saddam has nothing to do with 9/11 - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

US takes Tal Afar - Cumhuriyet

Amb. Edelman: Tal Afar operation is about to end - Yeni

Safak

Massacre of civilians feared in Tal Afar - Zaman

Iraqi Turkmen fear mass killings - Yeni Safak

Holbrooke: Iraq worse than Vietnam - Zaman

Powell's belated confession on Iraq - Cumhuriyet

First Greek Cypriot school opens in 'TRNC' - Zaman

Putin draws in the reins - Radikal

BRIEFING

Situation in Tal Afar: FM Abdullah Gul said Monday he had asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to end the fighting in Tal Afar, and said he had warned the Secretary that 'if it continues, Turkey's cooperation on matters concerning Iraq will come to an end.' Gul condemned what he called 'the excessive use of force against civilians' in Tal Afar. The MFA on Monday told US Ambassador Edelman about Turkey's concerns over the situation. The US Ambassador replied that strikes by US forces in Tal Afar were aimed at combatants and not civilians. 'We cannot completely eliminate the possibility of civilian casualties,' the Ambassador said, 'but we believe the operation is being conducted with great care,' Edelman said. He said Turkey and the United States would cooperate to send humanitarian assistance to the area. Ambassador Edelman rejected claims in the Turkish media that US forces aimed to clear Tal Afar of Turkmen, who are close to Ankara, and replace them with Kurds. 'I assure you that we will not let the demographic structure of Tal Afar be changed,' Edelman stressed.

Turkish fundamentalists join 'Jihad' in Iraq: "Sabah" estimates that about 700 fundamentalist Turkish militants are currently in Iraq fighting in the ranks of insurgents. The paper points to video footage of abducted Turkish workers, in which some militants are heard speaking fluent Turkish. The Turkish fighters were first sent to Afghanistan, Chechnya, Bosnia, and Palestine before joining the resistance in Iraq, the paper claims. Some of them are kept in Turkey to carry out fundraising activities, according to "Sabah."

Osman Ocalan claims US support: PKK defector Osman Ocalan, who has set up a new political organization in northern Iraq, said the US has a 'positive view' of his efforts, "Milliyet" reports. In a statement to the Kurdish webpage 'Rizgari Online,' Ocalan said he had sent messages to Ankara through Kurdish leaders Necirvan Barzani and Jalal Talabani asking for contacts with the Turkish government. 'The Americans' positive approach to our initiative has been a gain for our freedom movement,' Ocalan reportedly said.

Turkish truck driver beheaded in Iraq: Video footage of the killing of a Turkish hostage by fundamentalist insurgents in Iraq was posted on an Islamist website Monday. In the video, three hooded kidnappers are shown slitting the throat

of Durmus Kumdereli, one of three Turkish truck drivers seized by the Tawhid wa al-Jihad group headed by Al-Qaeda operative al-Zarqawi. The execution reportedly took place in August. Kumdereli was killed for supplying goods to the US military in Iraq, the militants said.

Istanbul bombers' trial: Al-Qaeda financed the bomb attacks against two synagogues and British interests in Istanbul that killed a total of 63 people in November 2003, Adnan Ersöz, one of the suspects in the bombings, told a court in Istanbul Monday. 'There is no Al-Qaeda branch in Turkey, but there are ties of mutual assistance between us and Al-Qaeda, and the money came from Al-Qaeda,' Ersöz said. At Monday's session of the trial of 69 people accused of involvement in the attacks, Ersöz acknowledged that he had received training in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where he met Habib Aktas. Aktas, one of the alleged masterminds of the plot, was reportedly killed in Iraq last week during a US raid on Al-Anbar. Another chief suspect, Harun İlhan said, 'I have fought in the ranks of Al-Qaida and I'm proud of it.' İlhan apologized to Muslim victims of the terror attacks, but said, his group had 'sent the Jews a message in a language they can understand.' 'The bombings were carried out by Habib Aktas, Gurcan Bac (another suspect, still on the run) and me,' İlhan said.

AK Party's 'adultery bill': The ruling AK Party government is expected to submit a draft revised criminal code to parliament on Tuesday that includes a provision that would criminalize adultery. Voting will be held in the next several days. Turkish papers say the AK Party effort to ban adultery would jeopardize Turkey's EU hopes. Several EU foreign ministers criticized the proposal yesterday at a meeting in Brussels. The proposal is characterized by Europeans as 'a step backward' for Turkey. Some AK Party officials said the proposal to criminalize adultery is a social measure aimed at persuading men to be faithful to their wives. They say it has nothing to do with religion.

EDITORIAL OPINION: 9/11 Anniversary

"Destroying It Completely while Fixing It"
Haluk Ulman noted in the economic-political *Dunya* (9/14):
"Three years after the events of 9/11 the world is surrounded with fear and insecurity. The Bush administration started the Iraq war without finishing the job regarding Al Qaida and Bin Laden, and currently it is experiencing serious pitfalls in both Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention the US's difficult position in the international arena. . Bin Laden is still not finished, and even if he is captured there is no chance of seeing the Al Qaida terror end. The Iraq war did not deter Al Qaida, in fact, it helped it to grow even more rapidly. Al Qaida terror spread across the continent, from Spain to Saudi Arabia, Turkey to Indonesia. 9/11 was certainly a very sad event. Yet the Bush administration's method of dealing with the issue is even more sad. Washington tried to 'fix' it and 'destroyed it completely' in the end."

"Is This Counter-Terrorism?"
Ismail Kapan commented in the conservative *Turkiye* (9/14):
"Three years after the September 11 incident, how does the global war the US has started against terrorism proceed? Was the US able to bring democracy and freedom to Afghanistan and Iraq, as it claimed? Or, with the occupation, were much blood, tears and chaos brought to these countries? Actually, it is very clear that the situation gets worse with every passing day. One other thing is very clear-- that the US, with the excuse of fighting against terrorism, started its operation to become the only ruler of the world, for which it has been in preparation for many years. In short, the fight against terrorism is an excuse, and the real reason and target is to control the strategic regions and the energy resources of the world. The claim of 'fight against terrorism' loses its persuasiveness with every passing day. What do you think is the number of the civilian lives lost in Iraq and Afghanistan since the occupation? As a recent example, how many civilians lost their lives in Tal Afar? Or in Fallujah, Bakuba, Ramadi and Najaf, which are under constant bombing? While heavily bombing Tal Afar with the claim that there were about 200 terrorists there, how come the US ignores thousands of PKK terrorists in the northern Iraq mountains? The more the world realizes the real US intentions and witnesses the deaths of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, the more the reaction against the US grows. This is because the Bush administration's wrong policies increase terrorist activities globally. The most important conclusion reached from all this is: No one believes the fight against terrorism argument anymore."